

File
NSC 135
10/1/52

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, Intelligence

FROM: Assistant Director, Collection & Dissemination

SUBJECT: Progress report in compliance with NSC 50

1. Transmitted herewith is a draft which may serve as a point of departure for the report which you requested in your memorandum of 8 December 1952.

2. I suggest that the section dealing with OGD be sub-headed "Central Reference Facilities for Intelligence Research", as this title has some meaning for persons who know nothing and care nothing about the Office of Collection & Dissemination as such.

3. Probably the peel of trumpets in the first paragraph should be deleted, though I think it genuine.

4. The short list of significant developments could be considerably expanded, but I thought it well to restrict myself to those developments which had real import for the intelligence community as a whole.

5. I shall be very sorry if this year's report fails to underscore, in unmistakable language, the fact that we cannot make further progress - and will not even be able to keep pace with constantly growing demands for service - unless space can be found for us to work in and unless adequate clerical strength can be authorized by our budgetary and administrative top-rankers.

SECRET

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CENTRAL REFERENCE FACILITIES FOR INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH

The Agency's central reference facilities, administered by the Office of Collection & Dissemination, are operated for the benefit of all persons engaged in intelligence research in CIA and in the IAC agencies. It was reported in August, by an inter-departmental committee appointed to consider how the intelligence community might make the best possible use of available intelligence information, that "Of all the intelligence services, only CIA has attempted to establish a comprehensive central reference system; the exact nature of the requirement, the most feasible jurisdictional means, and the most suitable mechanical devices". Significant developments in 1952 were the following:

The CIA Library, in conjunction with the Library of Congress, made a frontal attack on the major problem of organizing and indexing the Russian-language materials which have come into the United States in recent years. With CIA support, the Library of Congress has commenced a revision of its Slavic Union Catalogue which will ultimately provide for the researcher an index by subject matter, and in the English language, to all the Soviet publications received since 1917 by all the 30-odd contributing U.S. libraries. In April, the Library of Congress published its first issue of a similar monthly index - also arranged by subject matter and giving both Russian and English-language titles - for all materials currently being received.

The Biographic Register, which has the responsibility assigned to CIA by NSC102-8 of maintaining biographic data on foreign scientists and technologists, published in May the first round-up of all available information on Soviet scientific and technical people. SOVIET UNION OF SCIENCE contains data on some [redacted] and is the only up-to-date compendium of its sort available.

By agreement between CIA and the Department of State, arrangements were made for the latter's Biographic Information Division to receive from CIA sufficient financial support to enable it to meet all CIA requirements for biographic data on foreign personalities in the political, social, and cultural fields. The arrangement was designed to enable CIA's Biographic Register to concentrate its effort on foreign scientists and technologists, and to provide biographic intelligence in support of economic research.

A microfilm team, operating in Europe, photographed and returned to Washington a great mass of detailed information on foreign industrial plants which had accumulated in the files of various government agencies overseas. These basic data, though collected at very great expense, had not hitherto been available for purposes of economic intelligence research in the United States. They will now be accessible to all members of the intelligence community through the facilities of the Industrial Register.

The major obstacles which impede continued progress in the evolution of CIA's central reference facilities are (1) the inadequacy of the working space available, and (2) the difficulty of obtaining the services of personnel qualified for the work which must be done.

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